



A FARMER examines beehives at a honey farm in Abbottabad. — Online

PTI in state of political disarray: governor

Kundi says elements working against Constitution can't be engaged through dialogue

By Our Correspondent

DERA ISMAIL KHAN: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Governor Faisal Karim Kundi on Sunday said that elements working against Constitution and the State could not be engaged through dialogue, stressing that the struggle against terrorism and disorder would continue. He made these remarks while speaking to the media during his visit to the Jashn-i-Dhapp Peace Festival in the remote riverine area of Jhok Obhechar, Mauza Dhapp Chaback, where he attended the event as the chief guest. Mr Kundi said such festivals were essential to restoring the positive image of the region and providing affordable recreation to the public. He said the participation of thousands of people was clear evidence that citizens had rejected

terrorism and embraced peace. The governor criticised the past and present policies of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf. He said despite 13 years in power, the party failed to deliver even a single national stadium to the province, adding that it had remained limited to renaming existing facilities. He said the party appeared to be in a state of political disarray, pointing out that it had been unable to secure the position of opposition leader in both the National Assembly and the Senate. "Those who want instability in the country cannot meaningfully talk about dialogue," he added. The governor said while the global community was ready to invest and do business in Pakistan, certain groups were bent on damaging the image of the military. He said the involvement of Afghan nationals in several recent terror incidents was alarming and called upon the nation to stand firmly with security forces. Governor Kundi also emphasised accountability, saying the country could not progress without an effective system of reward and punishment. "If a strict accountability mechanism can exist within the military, why can it not be

implemented in other institutions?" he asked, stressing the need to strengthen accountability bodies to curb corruption. Recalling the aftermath of Benazir Bhutto's assassination, he said the Peoples Party had raised the slogan of "Pakistan Khappy" to safeguard national unity. Responding to a question, the governor said provincial governments should respect each other. He announced that if the chief minister of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa visited Sindh, full security would be provided to him, adding that the chief minister of Sindh had formally invited the KP chief executive and would extend complete hospitality to him. HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS: The district administration has shifted 23 individuals to a shelter home. A team led by Dera assistant commissioner Syed Mohammad Arsalan visited various locations and identified such individuals. The shelter home is equipped with 24-hour electric supply, hot water, separate rooms and washrooms for women, as well as adequate bedding and blankets. In addition, free breakfast is being provided to all inmates.

Three terrorists killed in Lakki encounter

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Three terrorists were killed in an encounter with personnel of Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) of police in Lakki Marwat district on Sunday. According to an official statement issued by CTD, the department received information about possible entry of terrorists to Sarai Naurang area of Lakki Marwat district. It said that special weapons and tactics teams of Bannu CTD and local police from Lakki Marwat intercepted them on Pardal Begokhel road in Sarai Naurang. It said that terrorists opened firing at CTD personnel, who retaliated. It said that after the firing was stopped, a search operation was launched in the area and the teams found bodies of three militants. The killed terrorists were later identified as target killers Mohammad Nazir alias Mujahid, Fawadullah alias Moaz and Afnan Khan alias Afnani. The statement said that they were involved in targeted killing of police personnel Zaram Khan, Hafeezullah, Waheed Nawab, Arifullah and Habibullah, FC personnel Zainullah, clerk Merajuddin and retired Lance Naik Habibullah. A Kalashnikov, two 9mm pistols, two mobile phones and three cards of a banned organisation were recovered from the killed terrorists, said the statement.

CM orders completion of feasibility study for power distribution company

Bureau Report

PESHAWAR: Chief Minister Mohammad Sohail Afridi on Sunday ordered completion of feasibility study for establishment of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Power Distribution Company (KPPDC) within six months. He also ordered quarters concerned to finalise the draft of Provincial Energy and Power Regulatory Authority (Pepra) Act. He directed KP Transmission and Grid System Company to ensure timely and quality completion of ongoing transmission line projects. Chairing a meeting to review progress on power transmission and distribution matters here,

Mr Afridi said that the electricity, generated through provincial hydropower projects, would be supplied to industries at subsidised rates to promote industrial growth, strengthen economic stability and create employment opportunities across the province. According to a statement, the chief minister stressed the need for timely execution of projects. He said that provincial government would provide all the required resources to ensure timely completion of the project. The participants of the meeting reviewed progress on power transmission infrastructure and hydropower projects. They were informed that completion of ongoing hydropower

projects over the next four years was expected to add around 800 megawatts of electricity to the system. The meeting was informed that a 120-kilometre long transmission line was being laid from Matiltan power house to Chakdara grid station. Work is also under way on Lot One, a 40-kilometer section of the project. The meeting also informed that the 36 megawatts Daral Khwar hydropower project was made operational, while seven other schemes with a combined capacity of 224 megawatts were currently fully functional. The 84 megawatts Gorkin-Matiltan hydropower project has achieved 87 per cent physical progress and will be completed by December 2026. The 95 megawatts Ghabral-Kalam and 215 megawatts Madyan hydropower projects are expected to be completed in 2027. On the occasion, the chief minister said that funds being utilised was public money and that negligence or lack of seriousness would not be tolerated. On June 19, 2025, during the budget session of provincial assembly, chief minister's adviser on finance Muzammil Aslam had said that provincial government had started working on laying down of a power transmission line in the province and had planned to establish a provincial electric power regulatory authority just like National Electric Power

Regulatory Authority (Nepra). Mr Aslam had said that provincial government would set its own tariff for power though federal government didn't want it to have its own power regulator. He had asked opposition benches to support treasury benches on the matter. KP had filed an application with Nepra for issuance of licence for the transmission and grid company formed by the province. In 2021, adviser to chief minister for energy and power Himayatullah Khan told *Dawn* that Nepra had granted KP the licence for setting up a company to lay power transmission lines and put up grid stations to supply electricity produced by units located across the province.

Local hunter takes ibex trophy

By Our Correspondent

CHITRAL: A young local hunter from Lower Chitral, Hamad Muhammad Baig, successfully completed the first trophy hunt of the season in Rosh Gol, Terich Turkho Conservancy located in Upper Chitral. The hunter had obtained permit from the wildlife department by paying Rs148348, while the shooting distance was recorded at 342 meters and the horn length of the harvested ibex was measured at 45.2 inches.

An official of CGNP told *Dawn* that this successful trophy hunting event reflected the principles of scientific and sustainable wildlife management while the revenue generated from trophy hunting played a significant role in community development and the conservation of natural resources. He commended the efforts of the local community particularly the Village Conservation Committee (VCC) Zondrangram, which played primary role in the conservation process and efforts.



Khyber residents take to streets to demand reopening of Torkham border

Ask both countries to detach bilateral trade from political, security issues

By Our Correspondent

KHYBER: People from different segments of society demonstrated in Landi Kotal on Sunday to demand immediate reopening of the Torkham border.

Traders, transporters, tribal elders, daily wagers, activists of political parties and civil society participated in the protest organised under the banner of All Borders Coordinators Council. The gathering attracted representatives from different organisations and groups, who were directly affected by the closure of borders with Afghanistan since October 12. Prominent among those who addressed the protesters included Malak Roohullah Wazir, Malak Masal Khan,

Shah Hussain, Zarbullah Khan, Maulana Shoaib, Murad Hussain, Mujeebullah Shinwari, Qari Nazeemullah, Shah Khalid and Mirajuddin Khan. They said nearly three months' closure of the border amounted to economic murder of thousands of people, mostly tribesmen, as they were entirely dependent on the cross-border trade in different capacities for their earnings. Terming the Torkham border as an important business gateway to Central Asia, they

said that the border crossing had always served as a bustling economic hub with thousands of families having their livelihood attached to it. It has now become a ghost town with all types of commercial activities coming to a halt, they regretted. The speakers said that while thousands of individuals lost their jobs and businesses, hundreds of families were now faced with extreme poverty and serious economic problems due to the continuous closure of borders with many of

them now compelled to take loans for their survival. They called upon the neighbouring countries to detach bilateral trade from political and security issues while also allowing ordinary citizens to frequently travel on both sides of the border. "We also demand that influential tribal elders and trade representatives shall be made part of future Pak-Afghan peace and trade dialogue as they have always helped resolve thorny issues between the two countries in the past,"

they said. They also demanded the creation of an atmosphere of mutual respect and harmony between the two countries as the existing hostile situation had harmed the brotherly relations. The gathering unanimously resolved to launch a country-wide protest campaign if the borders were not reopened forthwith. The attendance at the gathering, however, was not to the expectations of the organisers as they had run a tireless campaign for it for last two weeks. The Landi Kotal Bazaar too remained open during the nearly two hours of the protest proceedings. Conspicuous by their absence were the representatives of Khyber Chamber of Commerce and Industries, who had earlier made high claims of making a breakthrough during their purported negotiations with Afghan trade groups and customs officials about reopening of the border in the first week of January.

Roof collapse claims six lives in Charsadda

By Our Correspondent

CHARSADDA: Six people, including a woman and her three daughters, were killed and five others sustained injuries after the dilapidated roof of a house collapsed in Shabqadar tehsil here on Sunday, the police said. Most of the victims were guests who had arrived to attend a wedding ceremony at the house where the incident occurred. The event was scheduled for Sunday evening, the police added. "The incident occurred at around 4am on Sunday when the dilapidated roof caved in on the family and guests, prompting the neighbours to rush to the site and manage to pull out the bodies and the injured from the debris," police said. Rescue 1122 teams arrived at the scene later, launching relief and rescue operations and shifting the injured and deceased to the Tehsil Headquarters Hospital, Shabqadar, the police said. Roof collapses are largely caused by substandard construction, use of poor-quality materials, and lack of enforcement of building codes. Ageing structures, illegal extensions, and heavy rains further weaken roofs, making collapses more likely. In November last year, a roof collapse also killed five members of a family, including four children, in the Pabbi area of Nowshera district.

Three injured in quadcopter attack on Mirali school

NORTH WAZIRISTAN: Three people, including a school principal, were injured on Tuesday when unknown assailants targeted a private school with a quadcopter attack in Mirali subdivision of North Waziristan, officials said. According to them, the incident took place in Khasokhel village, where an explosive device was dropped from a quadcopter onto the premises of the school. At the time of the attack, the school principal and a security guard were present on the campus and sustained injuries in the explosion. Local residents said the attack triggered panic in the area, forcing people living near the school to rush out of their homes in fear. A local elder told *Dawn* that targeting a school through a drone attack was "an act of hostility against education and a dangerous assault on the lives of innocent children." Soon after the incident, a Rescue 1122 medical team reached the site to provide first aid and evacuate the injured. However, officials said that while rescue personnel were engaged in relief work, another quadcopter dropped a mortar shell near the scene, injuring a rescue worker. Residents strongly condemned the attack on rescue workers, calling it highly deplorable. Rescue officials said their personnel reached the area despite serious security threats and continued their duties under life-threatening conditions. "All the injured were provided initial medical treatment and later shifted to Bannu for further care, where their condition was stated to be stable," a Rescue 1122 official said. Government authorities confirmed that an investigation into the incident was underway, while no militant group had so far claimed responsibility for the attack. — Correspondent

Woman found dead in Bannu

BANNU: Body of a young woman was found in the Koti Sadat area near Chashma Chowk on Jhandokhel Road here on Sunday. She was shot dead, and was approximately 23 years old, the police said. Upon receiving information, Basiakhel police rushed to the scene and took custody of the body, which was later shifted to the District Headquarters Hospital, Bannu, for completion of medico-legal formalities. According to hospital administration, the body was kept in the morgue in an effort to trace the heirs; however, no claim was received from any side. In the absence of heirs, the tehsil municipal administration buried the body at Tarang graveyard in accordance with official procedure. SHO Basiakhel Allah Nawaz Khan stated that the motive behind the incident is yet to be ascertained. Investigations have been initiated from various angles, and police have collected evidence from the scene while efforts are underway to trace and arrest the unidentified culprits. — Correspondent